

# INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

DATE DISTR. 29 September 1955

NO. OF PAGES 10

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

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Attached	is being forwarded as received.
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**Comments:**

1. The location of subject installations is approximately eight kilometers northwest of Lazo (N 63-13, E 152-10), not Lasso. 25X1
2. The correct spelling for the end product of subject installations is cassiterite rather than kasserite as it appears in the report.
3. [redacted] the Lazo Cassiterite Mine and the Cassiterite Concentration Factory No. 3 were, prior to 1951, two separate installations. However, since 1951, they have become a single combine. 25X1
4. The plant referred to in paragraph No. 1 as the Kanionen Plant No. 4 is probably the Kanon Cobalt Mine. Kanon is probably the same as Bolshoy Kanon (approximately N 63-33, E 151-25) on the Bolshoy Kanon River, a tributary of the Semychan River. [redacted] 25X1
5. The Priisk Pyatiletki ore deposits mentioned in paragraph No. 1 probably refers to the Pyatiletka Cassiterite Mine, which is located at Pyatiletka (N 63-12, E 152-09). [redacted] 25X1
6. The abbreviation Ju S.GPU referred to in paragraph No. 1 refers to the Southwestern Directorate (Yugozapadnoye upravleniye) of the now defunct GPU (Gosudarstvennoye politicheskoye upravleniye - State Political Directorate). The GPU is now the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs) which administers Soviet Far East mining installations. Also [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the Lazo Cassiterite Mine is part of the Upper Semychan Ore Mining Combine (Verkhniy Semychanskiy gorno - rudnyy kombinat). 25X1
7. Groeno-Roswtka, which appears in paragraph No. 3, should be Gornaya razvedka.

**CLASSIFICATION**

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION									
ARMY	X	AI*			Approved For Release 2008/03/12 : CIA-RDP80-00810A007300570001-2									

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~~7. Information does not appear in paragraph No. 3, should be removed.~~

8. The Elgen power plant referred to in paragraph No. 4 is at Elgen Ugol (N 62-54, E 151-46).
9. Marina Gregorovna Nagmanova was reported to be the Chief Engineer of the Lazo installation  (See paragraph No. 6 of the present report). 25X1

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COUNTRY USSR -3- REPORT

TOPIC Ore Mining and Ore Concentration Activities in Lasso, Magadan Area

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 18 May 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 - two sketches on ditto, with legend 25X1REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

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1. The Object consisted of the Rudnik Lasso (Lasso Ore Mine) and the Obogadittelne Plant No 3 (Obogatitelynaya Fabrika = Ore Concentration Plant). It was learned that other ore enterprises were located within an area 10 kilometers around Lasso, including Plant No 2 (ore mining and ore concentration plant), the Kanionon Plant No 4 (ore mining and ore concentration plant), and Priisk Patileky (Priisk Pyatiletki - Pyatiletki Ore Deposits). All mines and ore processing plants were subordinated to Yugosabatne-Borno-Promishlennost-Ubravne-Lateine (Yugosapatnoye Gorno Promyshlennoye Pravlenye SW Mining Administration). The abbreviation JuS.GPU is the most common designation of this administration. 25X1
2. The PWs were brought by air from Magadan (59°34'N/150°48'E) to Seymchan (62°53'N/152°26'E). From there they proceeded in closed trucks to Lasso which is located 65 km east of Seymchan. During this trip, two rivers had to be crossed. The Lasso mining operation was located south of a small river, the ore concentration plant was located north of it.

3.  mining operations had been started in 1932. During the period under observation, that is, between 1948 and 1952, the installations were continuously enlarged. Within the framework of the so-called Grono-Roswtka (Gornaya - Raswtka = geological exploration), geologists were continuously exploring the surrounding mountain ranges for ore deposits. As soon as promising finds were detected, convicts were set to work starting with open-pit mining. Even very small deposits were exploited. As soon as the deposits were exhausted, the mines were abandoned. They were neither filled in nor were any safety measures observed, and consequently severe accidents have occurred. 25X1

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4. The Object consisted of the Lasso ore mine, operated both in open-pit and underground mining on the slope of a 600-meter high mountain, and the ore concentration plant No 3, which was built in terraces on the slope of a 700-meter high mountain and included ore crushers, ball mills, and other ore concentration equipment. There was no railroad connection. The plant and the mine area were provided with a net of 6-meter wide gravel roads. A motor pool of 60 factory-owned trucks served transportation purposes. Power was supplied by the coal-burning Elgen power plant located east of the mine area. High voltage lines suspended from wooden masts connected the power plant and the Object. The Elgen power plant was said to supply power to the entire Kolyma area (sic!). Compressed air was furnished by the factory compressor plant. Water was pumped from the river by three pumping stations

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The piping system was 8 to 10 inches in diameter. In 1951, three large water tanks of 80,000 liters capacity each were erected and were designed to serve the plant during the winter when the river was frozen. Coal was delivered on trucks from the Elgen coal mines. Data on the amount of coal required by the plant were not available. Fuel was delivered from Magadan. The daily arrival from Magadan of a prime-mover with a 50-ton tank truck was observed. The fuel was stored in three 60-ton underground tanks.

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5. The following observations regarding mining and ore processing activities were made:
- a. Ore was mined in open-pit mines and in underground working. Open-pit mining was of lesser importance. The mine was equipped with a hoisting tower and a cable drum. The lowest mine level was at 700 meters depth. Boring holes 1.5 meter deep were advanced with pneumatic telescopic drills. Ammonal ignited by fuses was used as explosive charge. Only reliable free workers were employed as blasters. The material obtained was loaded into narrow-gauge mine cars of 1.5 tons capacity. From the cross cuts an average 48 to 50 loaded minecars per shift were pushed by hand to the main track, then proceeded by powered rope hauling to the shafts and were hoisted to the surface. At the surface, the ore was dumped from a loading ramp into a string of seven wooden bunkers. These bunkers were 8x8 meters across, tapered to the bottom and were about 7 meters deep. From these bunkers special ZIS-151 5-ton tipping trucks were loaded with 4 to 4.5 tons of ore and moved to Plant No 3. It was learned from Soviet drivers, that each driver had to make 30 runs within a period of 24 hours. The distance between the mine and Plant No 3 was some 5 kilometers. Since 15 trucks without trailers were in use, the daily amount of ore shipped to Plant No 3 was estimated at 15 x 30x 4-4.5 tons equivalent to a haulage of 2,000 tons of ore per day. Pure ore was described as being bluish-gray in color and varying in size between lumps as large as a fist up to the size of a human skull. The value of one ton of ore was estimated at 50,000 rubles. The ore was generally called Kasserite and was said to contain 15 different metals. The different constituents could not be ascertained.
  - b. The exact weight of the ore shipments was determined at the balance at Plant No 3. The trucks were generally loaded with 4 to 4.5 tons of ore. Since the whole amount of ore delivered to Plant No 3 could not be processed immediately, part of the ore was moved to the dump. During the period under observation, there were three 40-meter high ore dumps. These dumps were kept as a reserve for the winter when mining and transportation operations were impeded by snow drifts, power shutoffs, repairs and the like. The ore designed for immediate

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processing was hauled by a conveyer belt from the bunkers to the crushing installation which consisted of 5 cast steel containers called Seimos (sic). The ore was crushed by an eccentric drive and then moved on a conveyer belt to the main building. This building contained 2 large and 7 small crushers. A large crusher consisted of a horizontal cast steel drum 3 meters in diameter and 10 meters long powered by a 250 kW motor and containing iron ball crushers. Water was fed into the drums during the crushing procedure. Passing shaking tables and distributing jiggers, the ground ore was moved to the sulphate chamber. This chamber had a 10x3 meters floor space. The ore was kept in permanent rotation by rotating grooved shafts and chemicals of undetermined composition were added. These chemicals were said to small like carbon disulfide. The froth resulting during this procedure was removed continuously. The whole process took about one hour. The next stage was the magnet machine (sic) which separated dead rock and ore. Then specimens were taken for analysing the strength and the grade of the ore. At the ore sludge station, ore residues were recovered from the sludge. In the drying department equipped with 4 wood-burning brick drying furnaces 15 meters long and 4 x 4 meters in diameter the processed ore was heated to white-heat. The quantity of the charges could not be ascertained. After the heating process, the ore was set out in iron coaling ladles in the open air, where the steel attained a bluish-brown to violet color. The atmosphere around these ladles was poor in oxygen and caused irritating cough. The ore was finally prepared for shipment in the loading shed where it was packed in three-layered coarse-threaded sacks of 50 kg capacity. It was learned that 10 tons of ore per shift were prepared for shipment. No details regarding the grade of the ore were available. The sacks were labelled with red, green, blue, or white wooden tags which were supposed to indicate the grade of the content. The sacks were trucked to Seymchan airfield and from there shipped by air to Magadan or other regions. If the weather conditions did not permit air transportation, the ore was trucked to Magadan, where it was loaded onto ships. The final destination is unknown. No information regarding uranium ore deposits in the Lasso region was obtained.

6. The following leading persons were reported:

Marianka Yygeomanova, a female engineer, manager of the Lasso ore mine, and Oppenheimer (fnu), manager of Plant No 3, a party functionary rather than a specialist. The total work force both at the mine and the ore processing plant was estimated at approximately 4,000 persons including 3,000 prisoners. Among the prisoners there were 12 [redacted] Hungarians, [redacted] Czechs, Rumanians, [redacted] individuals from the former Baltic countries, and Poles. The Soviet civilian workers were mostly so-called free workers, that is, persons who have served their terms and were settled in the environs of the plant. Females were employed as controllers and laboratory technicians. Work was done in three 8-hour shifts. The work norms for a Soviet civilian blaster was fixed at 12 x 1.2 to 1.5-meter deep boring holes. Social conditions of the workers were poor. Free workers were not furnished with protective clothing, only during the cold season quilted coats were distributed. There was great dearth of water during the winter months. Ice had to be melted and the drinking water thus obtained repeatedly caused severe intestinal afflictions. On the average, a free worker earned 2,000 rubles per month, special workers received about 3,000 rubles. Food supply was irregular since all foodstuffs had to be brought from Magadan.

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The free workers were called Kolonent (colonists.) and were housed in a settlement of small mud houses.

7. Plant No 3 was bordered to the east and west by a wire mesh fence. The factory police consisted of about 200 MVD. The fire brigade also consisted of MVD personnel. Air defense installations were not observed.

8. Regarding the climatic conditions, the following was reported:

The summer months are June, July and August. Then the sky is mostly clear, there is little rain, visibility is good, clouds are high. Temperatures of up to 35 degrees centigrade are registered. During April and May there is never full daylight, it is dusky even at noon. The thawing season begins in April and lasts until June. The winter lasts from September to April. The cold sets in gradually; between December and March temperatures down to minus 50 degrees centigrade are registered. The snow cap reaches the tree tops. ZIS-151 snow plows are constantly engaged in clearing the roads. All rivers including the Kolyma and the Seymchan are frozen. As soon as the ice cap reaches a thickness of 28 cm, truck traffic is conducted on the ice. Heavy snow storms set in in October and people have to draw themselves along ropes strung between the different localities. Power failures are of frequent occurrence during this time and usually last for days or even weeks. Standby capacities are inadequate. Air traffic is suspended and communication is maintained by trucks which frequently become victims of the hurricanes. All attempts to grow cereals in the Seymchan area have ended in failure.

1. Comment. The present report confirms earlier information regarding the Lasso mining and ore processing enterprise. JuS.GPU is one of the following four mine administrations of the Kolyma gold mining area:

SS.SGPU - Severo - Sapadnoye (northwestern)  
S.GPU - Sapadnoye (western)  
JuS.GPU - Yugo Sapadnoye (southwestern)  
Ju.GPU - Jushnoye (southern)

[REDACTED]

2. Comment. For details of the location of the Object, see Annex 1 prepared on the basis of a map, scale 1:2.5 millions.
3. Comment. For details of the layout of the mine and the concentration plant, see Annex 2.

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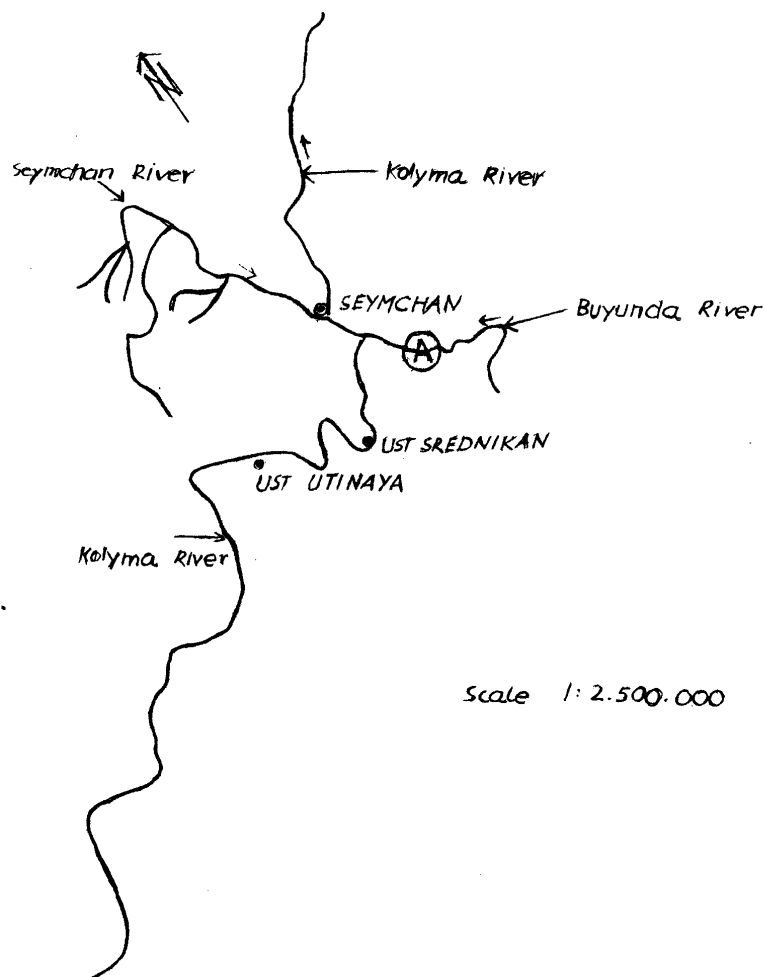
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Annex 1

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Location Sketch of the Lazo Tin Mine and Ore  
Concentration Plant No 3



A - Presumed location of the Object

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Annex 2

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Layout Sketch of the Laso Tin Mine and Ore Concentration Plant No 3Legend.

- 1 - Wooden bridge about 60 meters long
- 2 - MVD-guarded barrier
- 3 - MVD-guarded barrier
- 4 - Mechanical workshop housing a blacksmith shop, a locksmith shop, and a wood-working department. A 5-meter high mud structure 50x10 meters across.
- 5 - Boiler house, a 15-meter high wooden structure, 70x20 meters across, with a gently sloped shingle saddle roof, housing four vertical 15-atmosphere boilers, with brown coal firing. The coal required was delivered from the Elgen brown coal mines. The boiler house exclusively served heating purposes.
- 6 - Ore testing station, a 5-meter high shingle-covered mud building, 20x20 meters across.
- 7 - Magnet department (sic), a 5-meter high shingle-covered mud building. No details available.
- 8 - Fuel and lubricants station, a 5-meter high mud building, 25x15 meters across, with a shingle-covered flat roof.
- 9 - Storage point for spare parts and iron, a 5-meter high mud building, 50x15 meters across, with a shingle-covered flat roof.
- 10 - saw mill
- 11 - Ore hoist, a 20-meter high wooden building, 60 x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof. A powered conveyer belt connected this building with the ore crushing plant.
- 12 - Ore crushing plant, a 20-meter high wooden building, 35x35 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof. A roofed-over conveyer belt connected this building with the main building.
- 13 - Main building, also called "main corpus", a four-storied wooden building, 40x40 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 14 - Sludge recovery plant, a two-storied wooden building 60x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 15 - Drying department equipped with four drying furnaces, a two-storied wooden building 55x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 16 - Ore washing plant (sic), a two-storied wooden building 30x10 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 17 - Transformer station equipped with 7 transformers. No details regarding the transformers were available. A 5-meter high mud building 25x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 18 - Compressor house equipped with 8 vertical compressor   
 No details regarding these compressors were available. A 10-meter high mud building, 60x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.

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Annex 2

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- 19 - Garages and motor vehicle repair shop, called "automobile base", a 10-meter high wooden building, 200x75 meters across, with a flat shingle roof. The garage accommodated about 60 ZIS-5 and ZIS-151 trucks and prime movers.

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- 20 - Settlement of free workers employed at the ore mine or at the Lasso ore concentration plant
- 21 - Two ore mines, one of them an open-pit operation, the other an underground mine.
- 22 - Fuel depot surrounded by a wire fence
- 23 - 6-meter wide gravel road connecting the mines and Plant No 3
- 24 - PW camp. POB 381 A/5/2.
- 25 - 35-meter wide river
- 26 - Three water reservoirs
- 27 - Three ore dumps
- 28 - Two mesh wire fences

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Magadan Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 29 September 1955

SUBJECT 1. Lazo Cassiterite Mine

2. Cassiterite Concentration Factory No. 3 of Lazo

NO. OF PAGES 10

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. LISTED BELOW

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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ARMY	X AIR	X FBI				


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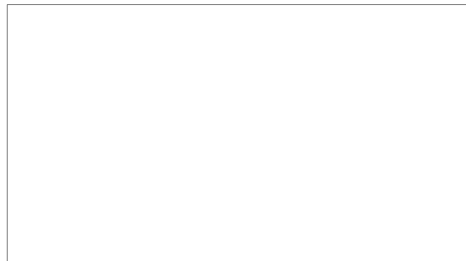
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REPORT

TOPIC Ore Mining and Ore Concentration Activities in Lasso, Magadan AreaEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     DATE OF CONTENT                     

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DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 18 May 1955REFERENCES                     

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PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 - two sketches on ditto, with legend

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REMARKS                       
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5. The following observations regarding mining and ore processing activities were made:
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6. The following leading persons were reported:

Marianka Yygemanova, a female engineer, manager of the Lasso ore mine, and Oppenheimer (fnu), manager of Plant No 3, a party functionary rather than a specialist. The total work force both at the mine and the ore processing plant was estimated at approximately 4,000 persons including 3,000 prisoners. Among the prisoners there were 12 [redacted] Hungarians, [redacted] Czechs, Rumanians, [redacted] individuals from the former Baltic countries, and Poles. The Soviet civilian workers were mostly so-called free workers, that is, persons who have served their terms and were settled in the environs of the plant. Females were employed as controllers and laboratory technicians. Work was done in three 8-hour shifts. The work norms for a Soviet civilian blaster was fixed at 12 x 1.2 to 1.5-meter deep boring holes. Social conditions of the workers were poor. Free workers were not furnished with protective clothing, only during the cold season quilted coats were distributed. There was great dearth of water during the winter months. Ice had to be melted and the drinking water thus obtained repeatedly caused severe intestinal afflictions. On the average, a free worker earned 2,000 rubles per month, special workers received about 3,000 rubles. Food supply was irregular since all foodstuffs had to be brought from Magadan.

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7. Plant No 3 was bordered to the east and west by a wire mesh fence. The factory police consisted of about 200 MVD. The fire brigade also consisted of MVD personnel. Air defense installations were not observed.
8. Regarding the climatic conditions, the following was reported:

The summer months are June, July and August. Then the sky is mostly clear, there is little rain, visibility is good, clouds are high. Temperatures of up to 35 degrees centigrade are registered. During April and May there is never full daylight, it is dusky even at noon. The thawing season begins in April and lasts until June. The winter lasts from September to April. The cold sets in gradually; between December and March temperatures down to minus 50 degrees centigrade are registered. The snow cap reaches the tree tops. ZIS-151 snow plows are constantly engaged in clearing the roads. All rivers including the Kolyma and the Seymchan are frozen. As soon as the ice cap reaches a thickness of 28 cm, truck traffic is conducted on the ice. Heavy snow storms set in in October and people have to draw themselves along ropes strung between the different localities. Power failures are of frequent occurrence during this time and usually last for days or even weeks. Standby capacities are inadequate. Air traffic is suspended and communication is maintained by trucks which frequently become victims of the hurricanes. All attempts to grow cereals in the Seymchan area have ended in failure.

1. Comment. The present report confirms earlier information regarding the Lasso mining and ore processing enterprise. JuS.GPU is one of the following four mine administrations of the Kolyma gold mining area:

25X1

Ss.SGPU - Severo - Sapadnoye (northwestern)

S.GPU - Sapadnoye (western)

JuS.GPU - Yugo Sapadnoye (southwestern)

Ju.GPU - Jushnoye (southern)

2. Comment. For details of the location of the Object, see Annex 1 prepared on the basis of a map, scale 1:2.5 millions.

25X1

3. Comment. For details of the layout of the mine and the concentration plant, see Annex 2.

25X1

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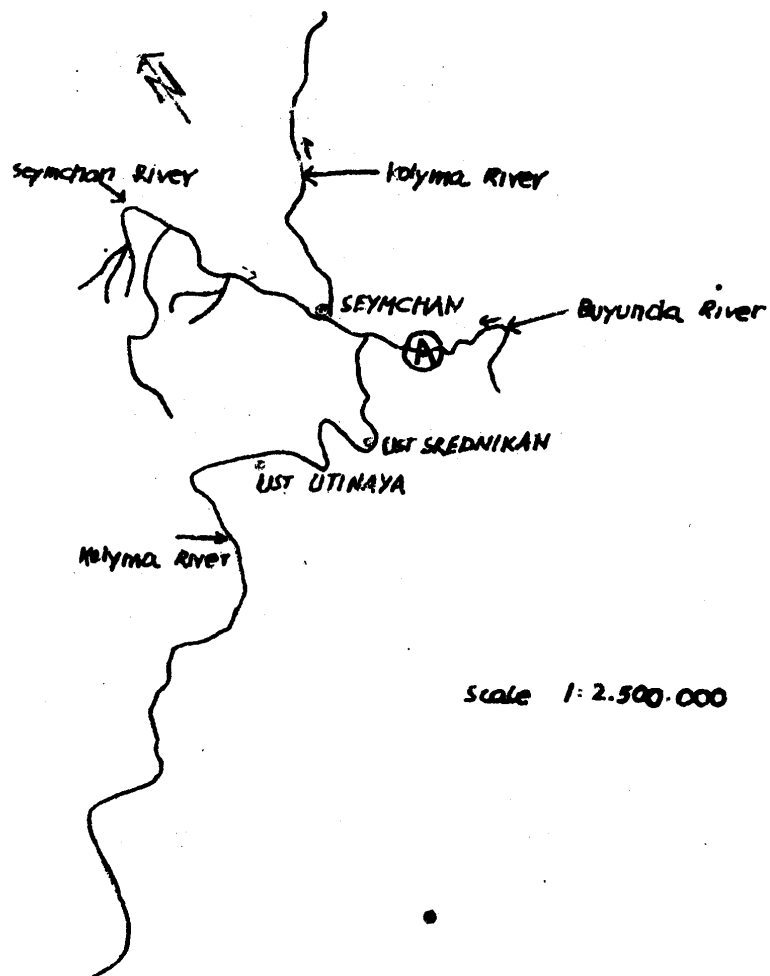
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Annex 1

25X1  
25X1

Location Sketch of the Lazo Tin Mine and Ore  
Concentration Plant No 3



A - Presumed location of the Object

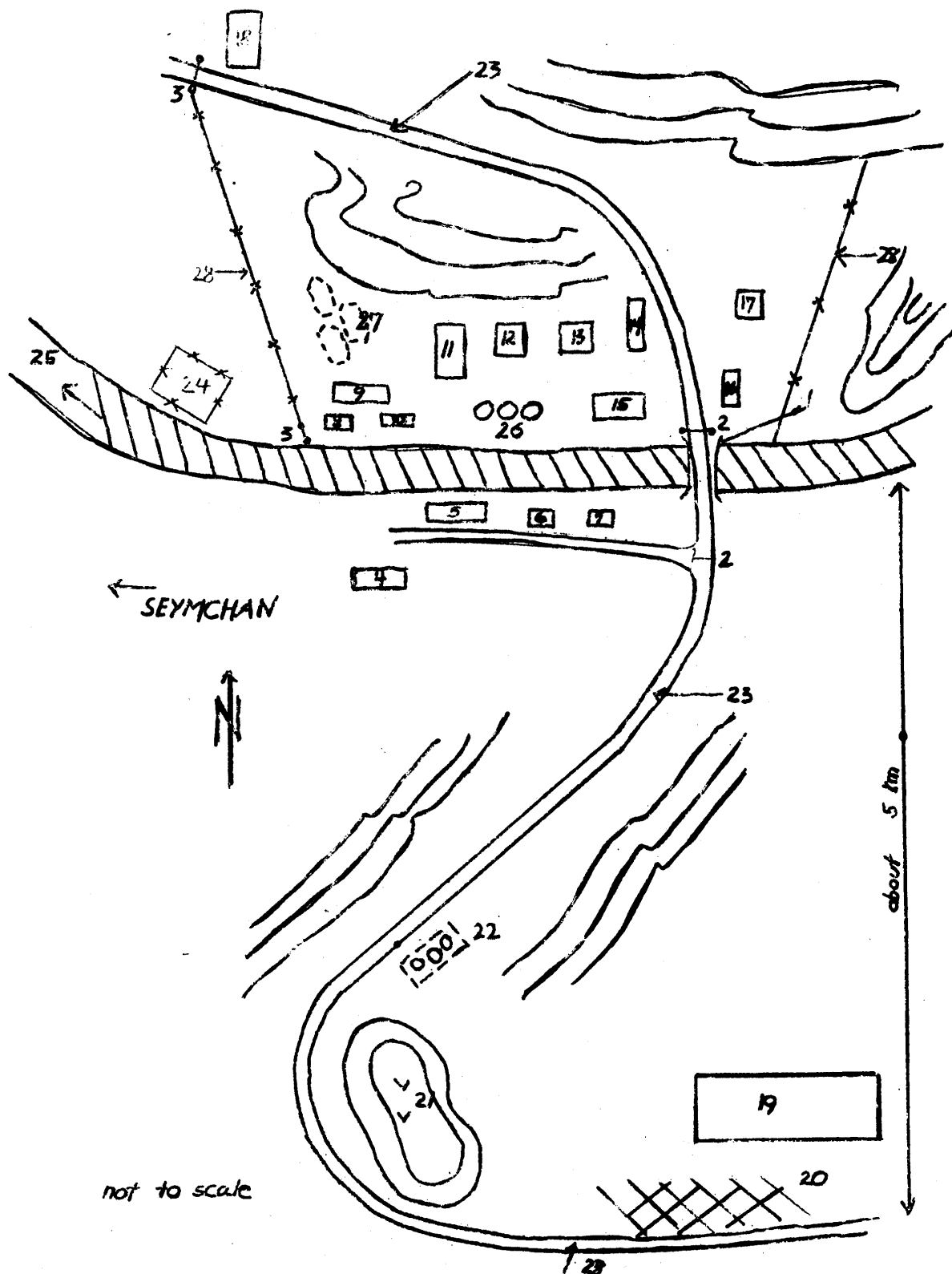
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Annex 2

25X1



For legend, see next page

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Annex 2

Lavout Sketch of the Lago Tin Mine and Ore Concentration Plant No 3Legend.

- 1 - Wooden bridge about 60 meters long
- 2 - MVD-guarded barrier
- 3 - MVD-guarded barrier
- 4 - Mechanical workshop housing a blacksmith shop, a locksmith shop, and a wood-working department. A 5-meter high mud structure 50x10 meters across.
- 5 - Boiler house, a 15-meter high wooden structure, 70x20 meters across, with a gently sloped shingle saddle roof, housing four vertical 15-atmosphere boilers, with brown coal firing. The coal required was delivered from the Elgen brown coal mines. The boiler house exclusively served heating purposes.
- 6 - Ore testing station, a 5-meter high shingle-covered mud building, 20x20 meters across.
- 7 - Magnet department (sic), a 5-meter high shingle-covered mud building. No details available.
- 8 - Fuel and lubricants station, a 5-meter high mud building, 25x15 meters across, with a shingle-covered flat roof.
- 9 - Storage point for spare parts and iron, a 5-meter high mud building, 50x15 meters across, with a shingle-covered flat roof.
- 10 - saw mill
- 11 - Ore hoist, a 20-meter high wooden building, 60 x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof. A powered conveyer belt connected this building with the ore crushing plant.
- 12 - Ore crushing plant, a 20-meter high wooden building, 35x35 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof. A roofed-over conveyer belt connected this building with the main building.
- 13 - Main building, also called "main corpus", a four-storied wooden building, 40x40 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 14 - Sludge recovery plant, a two-storied wooden building 60x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 15 - Drying department equipped with four drying furnaces, a two-storied wooden building 55x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 16 - Ore washing plant (sic), a two-storied wooden building 30x10 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 17 - Transformer station equipped with 7 transformers. No details regarding the transformers were available. A 5-meter high mud building 25x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.
- 18 - Compressor house equipped with 8 vertical compressor  No details regarding these compressors were available. A 10-meter high mud building, 60x25 meters across, with a shingle-covered saddle roof.

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Annex 2

25X1

- 19 - Garages and motor vehicle repair shop, called "automobile base", a 10-meter high wooden building, 200x75 meters across, with a flat shingle roof. The garage accommodated about 60 ZIS-5 and ZIS-151 trucks and prime movers.

25X1

- 20 - Settlement of free workers employed at the ore mine or at the Lasso ore concentration plant
- 21 - Two ore mines, one of them an open-pit operation, the other an underground mine.
- 22 - Fuel depot surrounded by a wire fence
- 23 - 6-meter wide gravel road connecting the mines and Plant No 3
- 24 - PW camp. POB 381 A/5/2.
- 25 - 35-meter wide river
- 26 - Three water reservoirs
- 27 - Three ore dumps
- 28 - Two mesh wire fences

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